

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 00565 211509Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W

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P 211544Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 921

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EYES ONLY FOR LOUGHRAN (AF/W) FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER SL

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS/SL STAFFING

1. REGRET EMBASSY AGAIN SEEKING YOUR HELP RE PEACE CORPS STAFFING, BUT WE ARE AT COMPLETE LOSS TO SEE WHAT FUTURE HOLDS AND I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT PC/SL SITUATION ON VERGE SERIOUS SETBACK UNLESS RESOLUTION PC/SL LEADERSHIP QUESTION REACHED PROMPTLY. PCV AND PC/SL STAFF MORALE PLUMMETING DUE UNCERTAINTIES.

2. AS YOU AWARE, ACTING DIRECTOR BAKER HAS BEEN IN US OVER A MONTH AND WE HAVE NO INDICATION WHEN (OR IF) HE RETURNING. REGGIE HODGES DOING FIRST RATE JOB FILLING IN, BUT HIS PENDING TRANSFER TO GHANA BEING POSTPONED PIECEMEAL WITH ADVERSE EFFECT HIS OWN MORALE AND POSSIBLE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT PC/G PROGRAM. HODGES RELUCTANT PROCEED ON NUMBER OF CRUCIAL PENDING DECISIONS SINCE HE DOES NOT EXPECT BE HERE LIVE WITH RESULTS AND FEELS HE MUST BE IN ACCRA BY MAY 1 BUT I EQUALLY RELUCTANT LET HIM GO WITHOUT STRONG AND HOPEFULLY PRMANENT REPLACEMENT. EXECUTIVE OFFICER BESACHIO ARRIVING TODAY BUT HAS NO LOCAL KNOWLEDGE OR OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE.

3. PROBLEM OF PC/SL LEADERSHIP OF LONG STANDING. WE HAVE HAD NO PERMANENT COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR NEARLY A YEAR AND NOW FOUR DIFFERENT CHANGES OF ACTING PCD. GOSL MINISTRIES ALSO

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REFLECTING INCREASING CONFUSION IN DEALING WITH MERRY-GO-ROUND.

4. IN ORDER HELP ME SEE BETTER INTO FUTURE, WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR FINDING OUT FOR ME WHAT PROSPECTS ARE FOR PROVIDING
PERMANENT P:SL LEADERSHIP SOONEST. AT MINIMUM NEED TO
KNOW STATUS AND TRAVEL PLANS OF BAKER.
SAMUELS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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